PAVER LIGHT

Cross-Reference to Related Application

This application is a §111(a) application relating to commonly owned co-pending U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/440,457, entitled "Paver Light" filed January 16, 2003.

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a light for use in interlocking concrete paving stones, commonly referred to as "pavers", and similar building components used to make driveways, walkways and patios.

Background of the Invention

With the advent of cured concrete brick pavers, their use in home architecture, industrial architecture and landscaping has proliferated. Numerous styles and sizes of pavers and interlocking paver systems have been developed in order to enhance the functioning, as well as the aesthetics, of paver systems. Some paver systems include a method and apparatus for planning and installing pavers to achieve the maximum aesthetic effect, as well as the greatest functional value.

In providing an illuminated paver, there are special considerations that need to be addressed. One consideration relates to the strength of the paver for vehicle support. Another consideration relates to water drainage, since water and condensation may fill the inside of an electrical apparatus, thereby damaging

the electrical apparatus, or presenting a shock hazard among other undesirable consequences. As a result, an illuminated paver must be strong and provide a waterproof housing or enclosure to hold the electrical components inside, thereby providing a durable, long lasting product.

Illuminated pavers have been developed previously (see, for example, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,390,090; 5,678,920 and 6,027,280). It is noted that while the devices disclosed in the foregoing patents are designed to fit in place of a paver and provide light, none are actually masonry-based pavers. Notably, none of the pavers that are the subject of the foregoing patents has the inherent strength, color or texture of the masonry paver that it replaces.

One problem encountered with current illuminated pavers is that of vertical support. Normally vertical support is provided to each interlocking concrete brick paver from an adjacent such paver by the vertical face thickness of the adjacent paver. Typically, the vertical face of such pavers is within a range between approximately 2-3/8 inches to 3 1/8 inches or greater in height. This vertical thickness allows each paver to move slightly in a vertical direction, without significant tilting, when the paver is under load, such as when a vehicle rolls over it. This inherent feature of concrete pavers allows a load to be shared among adjacent pavers. The problem associated with other geometric-shaped non-concrete illuminated pavers occurs because the lens portion of such an illuminated paver overhangs the cast plastic body of the illuminated paver, precluding the vertical faces of other pavers from providing support to the illuminated paver.

Another type of illuminated paver includes a concrete paver with a small fiber optic light source. The fiber optics that are housed within such pavers are generally fragile and susceptible to breakage. The glass lens of the light source is also susceptible to damage by snow chains, studded tires and the like, which are on the vehicles rolling over them. A damaged fiber optic component may require substantial time and expense to effect a repair. For instance, a broken fiber optic line may require that an entire length or "run" of fiber optic line be replaced, which may further require a section of buried cable to be dug up. This procedure can be both difficult and expensive. Furthermore, the amount of light provided by such fiber optic paver lights is usually inadequate to sufficiently illuminate the paved area.

Additional issues that have arisen in relation to illuminated pavers include the power source and power consumption. High voltage, alternating current (commonly referred to as "AC") is generally avoided for outdoor applications such as paver lights because of the risk of shock due to water infiltration. Complicated grounding procedures to reduce the risk of shock are required when using AC current and as such, deter the use of AC powered illuminated pavers.

Low voltage applications for illuminated pavers, on the other hand, have been in use for some time. For example, U.S. Patent No. 6,027,280 discloses a light powered by a 12-volt direct current (commonly referred to as "DC"). DC powered lights for pavers require only a small amount of power and, thus, there is little risk of electric shock due to water infiltration and grounding assurances are not needed.

U.S. Patent No. 5,951,144 to Gavigan (the "Gavigan '144 Patent") discloses a low voltage lighting system that includes a brick having an upper surface and a lower surface opposite thereof, and a bore extending from the upper surface to the lower surface. The bore includes a countersunk enlargement located proximate to the upper surface of the brick. As disclosed in the Gavigan '144 Patent, the countersunk enlargement is substantially larger in shape and size than that of the remaining portion of the bore. This enables the brick to accommodate the particular structure of a modular light assembly disclosed therein. However, the problem with this configuration is that drilling and boring the countersunk enlargement and the remaining portion of the bore is difficult and time consuming, requiring careful and close attention to boring depth so as to allow the modular light assembly to sit flush with the upper surface of the brick. Moreover, if the lighting system disclosed in the Gavigan '144 Patent is to be mass produced, it would be very difficult to mold a brick with a bore having a countersunk enlargement then to simply produce a brick with an equal sized bore all the way through it. Finally, the drilling and boring of the bore having the countersunk enlargement is facilitated by a proprietary drill bit, which is only available from a company identified as In-Lite Design Corporation of Ontario, Canada. As a result, any individual or company that may be interested in selling or installing the lighting system covered by the Gavigan '144 Patent must first obtain separate drill bits (both original and replacement bits) from In-Lite, thereby increasing the expense for producing the lighting system disclosed therein.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention overcomes the disadvantages and shortcomings of the prior art discussed above by providing a new and improved paver light. The paver light includes a masonry base having an exterior surface, an interior surface opposite the exterior surface, and an aperture that extends through the base from the exterior surface to the interior surface. The aperture has a substantially constant diameter from the exterior surface to the interior surface of the base. A tubular-shaped support sleeve is positioned within the aperture of the base. The support sleeve provides structural support for a modular light assembly removably mounted to one end thereof proximate to the exterior surface of the base. More particularly, the modular light assembly includes a cam lock that corresponds with and engages cam lock tabs of a mounting bracket that is mounted to the support sleeve. This configuration allows a user to easily install and remove the modular light assembly by turning it relative to the mounting bracket. Alternatively, the modular light assembly can be mounted to the support sleeve by an adhesive, which acts as a seal to prevent debris from entering into the interior of the support sleeve and making contact with the components contained therein.

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, an electrical socket is removably received within the cavity of the support member. The modular light assembly is releasably connected to the socket such that the socket is removed from the cavity of the support member as the modular light assembly is removed from the support member. As a result, the modular light

assembly can be disconnected from the socket for the purposes of repair or replacement externally of the masonry structure.

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, the paver light includes a support plate positioned adjacent to the interior surface of the base. When the paver light is installed, the plate impedes the support sleeve from exiting the aperture of the base at its interior surface and into a bedding substrate. As a result, the modular light assembly is prevented from recessing too far below the exterior surface of the base.

Specifically, the present invention has been adapted for use as a component of driveways, walkways and patios. However, the present invention can be utilized as a component for other structures. Further features and advantages of the invention will appear more clearly on a reading of the detailed description of the exemplary embodiments of the invention, which are given below by way of example only with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Brief Description of the Drawings

For a better understanding of the present invention, reference is made to the following detailed description of the exemplary embodiments considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is an exploded perspective view of a paver light constructed in accordance with one exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view, taken along section line A-A and looking in the direction of the arrows, of the paver light shown in **FIG. 1**;

FIGS. 3, 4 and **5** are sequential perspective views of the steps of an exemplary method of constructing the paver light shown in **FIGS. 1** and **2.**

FIG. 6 is an exploded perspective view of a paver light in accordance with another exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view, taken along section line B-B and looking in the direction of the arrows, of the paver light shown in **FIG. 6**;

FIG. 8 is an exploded perspective view of a paver light in accordance with another exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 9 is a cross-sectional view, taken along section line C-C and looking in the direction of the arrows, of the paver light shown in **FIG. 8**; and

FIG. 10 is a bottom perspective view of a modular light assembly and a top perspective view of a corresponding mounting bracket employed by the paver light shown in **FIGS. 8** and **9**.

Detailed Description of the Drawings

Referring to **FIGS. 1** and **2**, a paver **10** includes a rectangular brick-shaped base **12** and a disc-shaped modular light assembly **14**, whose features and function shall be described hereinafter. The base **12** includes an exterior surface **16** and an interior surface **18** opposite the exterior surface **16**. A circular-shaped aperture **20** extends longitudinally from the exterior surface **16** to the interior surface **18** of the base **12**. The aperture **20** is sized and shaped to accommodate the receipt of the light assembly **14** and other components of the

paver **10** within the base **12,** which shall be identified and described in more detail below.

Still referring to **FIGS. 1** and **2**, the light assembly **14** includes an incandescent bulb **22**, a disc-shaped lens cap **24** which shields the bulb **22**, and a pair of plug-like connectors **26, 28**. The lens cap **24** is preferably waterproof and substantially transparent. Alternatively, the lens cap **24** can consist of different colors and/or can be modified to an opaque frosted finish (for instance, by sanding it with sandpaper) for aesthetic appeal. Preferably, the candlepower of the bulb **22** is sufficient to illuminate a driveway, walkway, patio or stairway in which the paver **10** is installed. Alternatively, other light sources, such as, for example, a light emitting diode ("LED") (not shown in **FIGS. 1** and **2**) may be used in place of the bulb **22**.

Still referring to **FIGS. 1** and **2**, the paver **10** includes a tubular-shaped support sleeve **30** having a first end **32,** a second end **34** opposite the first end **32**, and a centrally located cylindrical-shaped cavity **36** located between the first end **32** and the second end **34**. The first end **32** of the support sleeve **30** is preferably tapered (as shown in **FIGS. 1** and **2**), but it need not be. The light assembly **14** is removably mounted to the first end **32** of the support sleeve **30** by an adhesive **38**. The adhesive **38** may be, but is not limited to, materials commonly known in the art as "electricians putty" or "pavement adhesive", which, while providing a flexible watertight seal, may be removed if necessary. The support sleeve **30** is removably installed within the aperture **20** of the base **12** such that the first end **32** of the support sleeve **30** is recessed from the exterior

surface **16** of the base **12** and the light assembly **14** is positioned proximate to the exterior surface **16** of the base **12**.

Still referring to **FIGS. 1** and **2**, a pair of electrical wires **40, 42** passes under the interior surface **18** of the base **12** and enters the cavity **36** of the support sleeve **30**. The wires **40, 42** supply low voltage current to the light assembly **14**. A socket **44** having a pair of receptacles **46, 48** (not shown in **FIG. 2**, but see **FIG. 1**) is connected at one end **50** of the wire **40** and at one end **52** of the wire **42**. Preferably, dielectric grease (not shown in **FIGS. 1** and **2**) is disposed on and around the receptacles **46, 48** to prevent corrosion of the socket **44**. The connectors **26, 28** of the light assembly **14** mate respectively with the receptacles **46, 48** of the socket **44**. The wires **40, 42** are preferably coiled inside the cavity **36** of the support sleeve **30**. In this regard, the wires **40, 42** have a predetermined length that allows for the removal of the light assembly **14** and the socket **44** from the support sleeve **30** for the purposes of repair or replacement of the light assembly **14** externally of the base **12**.

Still referring to **FIGS. 1** and **2**, the paver **10** includes a rectangular-shaped support plate **54** having a first surface **56** and a second surface **58** opposite thereof. The function of the plate **54** shall be described hereinafter. A plurality of circular-shaped holes **60** extend longitudinally from the first surface **56** to the second surface **58** of the plate **54**. The first surface **56** of the plate **54** engages the interior surface **18** of the base **12** and substantially obstructs the aperture **20** of the base **12.** The plate **54** may be attached to the base **12**, but it

need not be. In this configuration, the second end **34** of the support sleeve **30** engages the first surface **56** of the plate **54**.

It is noted that the base **12** preferably consists of a rectangular-brick shape, but it can consist of other shapes and sizes. The plate **54** is preferably rectangular in shape, but it can consist of other shapes and sizes. While the aperture **20** of the base **12** and the cavity **36** of the support sleeve **30**, are each preferably cylindrical in shape, it should be noted that each can consist of other shapes and sizes. Also, the holes **60** of the plate **54** are each preferably circular in shape, but each can consist of other shapes and sizes. In addition, the light assembly **14** is preferably disc-shaped, but it can consist of other shapes and sizes. Finally, the support sleeve **30** is preferably tubular in shape, but it can consist of other shapes and sizes.

It is also noted that the base **12** is preferably manufactured from a masonry material, such as poured concrete or fired clay type building brick. Alternatively, the base **12** can be manufactured from other materials. In addition, the lens cap **24** of the light assembly **14** is preferably made from high impact polycarbonate, but it can be made from other materials. The support plate **54** is preferably manufactured from a thin flexible corrosion resistant material, such as galvanized steel, or from aluminum. Alternatively, the support plate **54** can be manufactured from other materials. Finally, the support sleeve **30** is preferably manufactured from PVC pipe, but it can be manufactured from other materials.

Moreover, a suitable light assembly **14** may be obtained commercially from Truck-Lite Inc., of Falconer, New York, model number 10, part number

10202. Alternatively, the light assembly **14** can be supplied by other manufacturers and/or be characterized by other model and part numbers.

In preparation for use of the paver **10**, the light assembly **14** is connected to the socket **44** externally of the base **12**. More particularly, the connector **26** of the light assembly **14** is connected to the receptacle **46** of the socket **44**, while the connector **28** of the light assembly **14** is connected to the receptacle **48** of the socket **34**. An end of the wire **40** opposite the end **50** thereof (not shown in **FIGS. 1** and **2**) and an end of the wire **42** opposite the end **52** (not shown in **FIGS. 1** and **2**) thereof are each connected to a power supply (not shown in **FIGS. 1** and **2**). The power supply has a preferable voltage of 12 volts, but it may have another voltage. Each of the wires **40, 42** are fed through one of the holes **60** of the support plate **54**. Alternatively, the wires **40, 42** may be fed through an opening formed between an edge of the plate **54** and the aperture **20** of the base **12** (not shown in **FIGS. 1** and **2**).

The plate **56** acts as a stop to prevent the support sleeve **30** from being pressed into a bedding substrate (not shown in **FIGS. 1** and **2**) that the paver **10** is laid on, in the event that a force is applied directly on top of the light assembly **14**. In turn, the light assembly **14** is prevented from traveling too far below the exterior surface **18** of the base **12**; and, therefore, allows the light assembly **14** to support vertical loading.

Because the paver **10** is designed for installation within an area populated with other pavers, the light assembly **14** is configured to be removed from the base **12** without having to remove any of the other pavers (not shown in the

Figures). More particularly, the light assembly **14** may be removed from the paver **10** with a common screwdriver or similar implement by simply prying the light assembly **14** out of the aperture **20** of the base **12**. In this regard, the light assembly **14** can be quickly and easily disconnected from the socket **44** externally from the base **12** and replaced with a new light assembly **14** and reinstalled into the base **12**. Furthermore, because the light assembly **14** is preferably manufactured as a sealed modular unit, replacement of the entire light assembly **14** is possible, thus gaining a new light source and housing.

In addition, the base **12** may be supplied with the light assembly **14** in the form of a kit or the base **12** may be acquired separately and modified at the construction site from preexisting masonry block. If supplied with the light assembly **14** in a kit, the aperture **20** in the base **12** may be pre-cast or otherwise formed therein during manufacture of the masonry block. If a masonry block is to be modified at the construction site to accept the light assembly **14**, the aperture **20** in the base **12** may be created through the masonry block using commonly available tools such as drills or drill presses. One tool that may be used to create the aperture **20** is a diamond tipped piloted core bit used in combination with a drill or drill press. The piloted core bit creates the aperture **20** by boring a hole straight through the masonry block.

FIGS. 3, 4 and **5** show the sequential steps of one method of constructing the paver **10**. More particularly, **FIG. 3** shows the first step in the construction process, whereby a predetermined length of the wires **40, 42** is laid on a site **62** where the installation of the paver **10** is desired. An excess portion of the wires

40, 42 is rolled to form a coiled portion **64**. The coiled portion **64** is placed in a location where the aperture **20** of the base **12** will be formed in order to accept the light assembly **14**. A tube **66** is then placed over the coiled portion **64** of the wires **40, 42**, as depicted by arrows **A1**.

Referring now to **FIG. 4,** after the tube **66** has been temporarily affixed in place, concrete is poured onto the site **62** and trowelled around the tube **66**. The poured concrete cures and forms the base **12.** It is noted that the tube **66** has generally the same outer wall diameter as the overall diameter of the support sleeve **30** to be installed within the base **12**. The tube **66** may be formed of a metal or a plastic such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC). The length of the tube **66** depends upon the thickness of the base **12** to be formed. Generally, a tube **66** having a length of a couple of feet is sufficient. Once the tube **66** has been secured over the coiled portion **64** of the wires **40, 42**, the base **12** may be formed.

While concrete is the preferred masonry product used to form the base **12**, other masonry products may be used. Concrete is a preferred masonry material because of it's fast set up and cure time as well as it's inherent strength as a building material. Concrete is commonly used in the construction of driveways, walkways, staircases and patios.

It should be understood that the wires **40, 42** may be laid under the base **12** or embedded within it. Either method is acceptable, as concrete does not adversely affect the wires **40, 42** of their function. Once the concrete has set as shown in **FIG. 4** to form the base **12,** the tube **66** is removed from the base **12** by

pulling up and out, as depicted by arrows **A2**, leaving the coiled section **64** of the wires **40, 42** exposed and resulting in the aperture **20**.

Referring now to **FIG. 5**, after the base **12** has set and the tube **66** has been removed, the site **62** is ready for the installation of a the light assembly **14** and other components of the paver **10**. The coiled portion **64** of the wires **40, 42** is taken out of the aperture **20** of the base **12,** uncoiled and threaded through the cavity **36** of the support sleeve **30**. The light assembly **14** is then connected to the socket **44** and a bead of adhesive **38** is placed between the first end **32** of the support sleeve **30** and the light assembly **14**. Any slack in the wires **40, 42** is taken up by recoiling them and the coiled section **64** is placed inside the cavity **36** of the support sleeve **30,** and the support sleeve **30** is placed into the aperture **20** of the base **12**. Once inside the aperture **20**, the light assembly **14** is positioned such that the lens cap **24** is flush with the exterior surface **16** of the base **12**.

FIGS. 6 and **7** depict another exemplary embodiment of the present invention. Elements illustrated in **FIGS. 6** and **7** that correspond, either identically or substantially, to the elements described above with respect to the embodiment shown in **FIGS. 1** and **2** have been designated by corresponding reference numerals increased by one hundred (100). In addition, elements illustrated in **FIGS. 6** and **7** that do not correspond to the elements described herein with reference to **FIGS. 1** and **2** are designated by odd referenced numbers starting with reference numeral **111**. Unless otherwise stated, the

embodiment shown in **FIGS. 6** and **7** is constructed and operates in the same basic manner as the embodiment shown in **FIGS. 1** and **2**.

Referring to **FIGS. 6** and **7**, a paver **110** includes a substantially rectangular brick-shaped base **112** and a disc-shaped modular light assembly **114**, whose features and function shall be described hereinafter. The base **112** includes an exterior surface **116** and an interior surface **118** opposite the exterior surface **116**. A circular-shaped aperture **120** extends longitudinally from the exterior surface **116** to the interior surface **118** of the base **112**. The aperture **120** is sized and shaped to accommodate the receipt of the light assembly **114** and other components of the paver **110** within the base **112,** which shall be identified and described in more detail below. The base **112** includes a rounded end **111**, which enables the bullnose paver **110** to be utilized in the construction of outdoor masonry staircases and swimming pool coping.

Still referring to **FIGS. 6** and **7**, the light assembly **114** includes an incandescent bulb **122**, a disc-shaped lens cap **124** which shields the bulb **122**, and a pair of plug-like connectors **126, 128**. The lens cap **124** is preferably waterproof and substantially transparent. Alternatively, the lens cap **124** can consist of different colors for aesthetic appeal. Preferably, the candlepower of the bulb **122** is sufficient to illuminate a driveway, walkway, patio or stairway in which the paver **110** is installed. Alternatively, other light sources, such as, for example, a light emitting diode ("LED") (not shown in **FIGS. 6** and **7**) may be used in place of the incandescent bulb **122**.

Still referring to **FIGS. 6** and **7**, the paver **110** includes a tubular-shaped support sleeve **130** having a first end **132,** a second end **134** opposite the first end **132**, and a centrally located circular-shaped cavity **136** located between the first end **132** and the second end **134**. The first end **132** of the support sleeve **130** is preferably tapered (as shown in **FIGS. 6** and **7**), but it need not be. The light assembly **114** is removably mounted to the first end **132** of the support sleeve **130** by an adhesive **138**. The adhesive **138** may be, but is not limited to, materials commonly known in the art as "electricians putty" or "pavement adhesive", which, while providing a flexible watertight seal, may be removed if necessary. The support sleeve **130** is removably installed within the aperture **120** of the base **112** such that the first end **32** of the support sleeve **130** is recessed from the exterior surface **116** of the base **112** and the light assembly **114** is positioned proximate to the exterior surface **116** of the base **112**.

Still referring to **FIGS. 6** and **7,** a pair of electrical wires **140, 142** passes under the interior surface **118** of the base **112** and enters the cavity **136** of the support sleeve **130**. The wires **140, 142** supply low voltage current to the light assembly **114**.

Referring specifically to **FIG. 7**, the bullnose paver **110** is shown laid on a solid block **113**. The wires **132, 134** are positioned within a channel **115** formed across the solid block **113**. The channel **115** may be formed using commonly available tools, such as chisels or saws.

Referring back to both **FIGS. 6** and **7**, a socket **144** having a pair of receptacles **146, 148** (not shown in **FIG. 7**, but see **FIG. 6**) is connected at one

end **150** of the wire **140** and at one end **152** of the wire **142**. Preferably, dielectric grease (not shown in **FIGS. 6** and **7**) is disposed on and around the receptacles **146, 148** to prevent corrosion of the socket **144**. The connectors **126, 128** of the light assembly **114** mate respectively with the receptacles **138, 140** of the socket **144**. The wires **140, 142** are preferably coiled inside the cavity **136** of the support sleeve **130**. In this regard, the wires **140, 142** have a predetermined length that allows for the removal of the light assembly **114** and the socket **144** from the support sleeve **130** for the purposes of repair or replacement of the light assembly **114** externally of the base **112**.

Referring now to **FIG. 6**, the paver **110** includes a rectangular-shaped support plate **154** having a first surface **156** and a second surface **158** opposite thereof. A plurality of circular-shaped holes **160** extend longitudinally from the first surface **156** to the second surface **158** of the plate **154**. The first surface **156** of the plate **154** is juxtaposed with the second surface **118** of the base **112.** More particularly, the plate **154** is positioned to one side of the aperture **120** of the base **112** (i.e., it is laterally offset relative to the aperture **120**), rather than being positioned directly below the aperture **120** of the base **112** as in the embodiment of the paver **10** shown in **FIGS. 1** and **2.** Such offset positioning of the plate **154** is necessitated because, when the paver **110** is located over a void, the plate **154** must be relocated to span or be supported by a run of a staircase stringer (not shown in **FIGS. 6** and **7**) or other supportive medium.

It is noted that the plate **154** is preferably rectangular in shape, but it can consist of other shapes and sizes. While the aperture **120** of the base **112** and

the cavity **136** of the support sleeve **130** are each preferably cylindrical in shape, it should be noted that each can consist of other shapes and sizes. Also, the holes **160** of the plate **154** are each preferably circular in shape, but each can consist of other shapes and sizes. In addition, the lens cap **124** is preferably disc-shaped, but it can consist of other shapes and sizes. Finally, the support sleeve **130** is preferably tubular in shape, but it can consist of other shapes and sizes.

It is also noted that the base **112** is preferably manufactured from a masonry material, such as poured concrete or fired clay type building brick. Alternatively, the base **112** can be manufactured from other materials. In addition, the lens cap **124** of the light assembly **114** is preferably made from high impact polycarbonate, but it can be made from other materials. The support plate **154** is preferably manufactured from a thin flexible corrosion resistant material, such as galvanized steel, or aluminum. Alternatively, the support plate **154** can be manufactured from other materials. Finally, the support sleeve **130** is preferably manufactured from PVC pipe, but it can be manufactured from other materials.

Moreover, a suitable light assembly **114** may be obtained commercially from Truck-Lite Inc., of Falconer, New York, model number 10, part number 10202. Alternatively, the light assembly **114** can be supplied by other manufacturers and/or be characterized by other model and part numbers.

In preparation for use of the paver **110**, the light assembly **114** is connected to the socket **144** externally of the base **112**. More particularly, the

connector **126** of the light assembly **114** is connected to the receptacle **146** of the socket **144**, while the connector **128** of the light assembly **114** is connected to the receptacle **148** of the socket **134**. An end of the wire **140** opposite the end **150** thereof (not shown in **FIGS. 6** and **7**) and an end of the wire **142** opposite the end **152** (not shown in **FIGS. 6** and **7**) thereof are each connected to a power supply (not shown in **FIGS. 6** and **7**). The power supply has a preferable voltage of 12 volts, but it may have another voltage. Each of the wires **140, 142** are fed through one of the holes **160** of the support plate **154**. Alternatively, the wires **140, 142** may be fed through an opening formed between an edge of the plate **154** and the aperture **120** of the base **112** (not shown in **FIGS. 6** and **7**).

The plate **156** acts as a stop to prevent the support sleeve **130** from being pressed into a bedding substrate (not shown in **FIGS. 6** and **7**) that the paver **110** is laid on, in the event that a force is applied directly on top of the light assembly **114**. In turn, the light assembly **114** is prevented from traveling too far below the exterior surface **118** of the base **112**; and, therefore, allows the light assembly **114** to support vertical loading.

Because the paver **110** is designed for installation within an area populated with other pavers, the light assembly **114** is configured to be removed from the base **112** without having to remove any of the other pavers (not shown in the Figures). More particularly, the light assembly **114** may be removed from the paver **110** with a common screwdriver or similar implement by simply prying the light assembly **114** out of the aperture **120** of the base **112**. In this regard, the light assembly **114** can be quickly and easily disconnected from the socket

144 externally from the base **112** and replaced with a new light assembly **114** and reinstalled into the base **112**. Furthermore, because the light assembly **114** is preferably manufactured as a sealed modular unit, replacement of the entire light assembly **114** is possible, thus gaining a new light source and housing.

FIGS. 8, 9 and **10** depict another exemplary embodiment of the present invention. Elements illustrated in **FIGS. 8, 9** and **10** that correspond, either identically or substantially, to the elements described above with respect to the embodiment shown in **FIGS. 1** and **2** have been designated by corresponding reference numerals increased by two hundred (200). In addition, elements illustrated in **FIGS. 8, 9** and **10** that do not correspond to the elements described herein with reference to **FIGS. 1** and **2** are designated by odd reference numbers starting with reference numeral **211**. Unless otherwise stated, the embodiment shown in **FIGS. 8, 9** and **10** is constructed and operates in the same basic manner as the embodiment shown in **FIGS. 1** and **2**.

Referring to **FIGS. 8** and **9**, a paver **210** includes a rectangular-shaped base **212** and a light assembly **214,** whose features and function shall be described hereinafter. The base **212** includes an exterior surface **216** and an interior surface **218** opposite the exterior surface **216**. A circular-shaped aperture **220** extends longitudinally from the exterior surface **216** to the interior surface **218** of the base **212**. The aperture **220** is sized and shaped to accommodate the receipt of the light assembly **214** and other components of the paver **210** within the base **212**, which shall be identified and described in more detail below.

Referring now to **FIGS. 8, 9** and **10**, the light assembly **214** includes an incandescent bulb **222** and a disc-shaped lens cap **224** having a pair of diametrically opposed rectangular-shaped tabs **211, 213** that outwardly extend from a first surface of **215** of the lens cap **224**. The function of the tabs **211, 213** shall be described hereinafter. The lens cap **224**, which shields the bulb **222**, is preferably waterproof and substantially transparent. Alternatively, the lens cap **224** can consist of different colors and/or can be modified to an opaque frosted finish (for instance, by sanding it with sandpaper) for aesthetic appeal. Preferably, the candlepower of the bulb **222** is sufficient to illuminate a driveway, walkway, patio or stairway in which the paver **210** is installed. Alternatively, other light sources, such as, for example, a light emitting diode ("LED") (not shown in **FIGS. 8, 9** and **10**) may be used in place of the incandescent bulb **222**.

Referring now to **FIG. 10,** the light assembly **214** includes a cam lock **217** formed on a bottom surface **219** thereof. The cam lock **217** includes a pair of diametrically opposed tabs **221, 223** and a pair of plug-like connectors **226, 228** that outwardly extend from the cam lock **217**. The function of the connectors **226, 228** and the cam lock **217** shall be described hereinafter.

Referring now to **FIGS. 8** and **9**, the paver **210** includes a tubular-shaped support sleeve **230** and a circular-shaped cam lock mounting bracket **225**. The support sleeve includes a first end **232,** a second end **234** opposite thereof, and a centrally located circular-shaped cavity **236** between the first end **232** and the second end **234** The bracket **225** includes a circular-shaped aperture **227,** a pair of diametrically opposed locking tabs **229, 231** that are positioned about the

periphery of the aperture **227** and outwardly extend from a first surface **233** of the bracket **225**, and a pair of diametrically opposed circular-shaped screw holes **235, 237**. The function of support sleeve **230** and the bracket **225** shall be described hereinafter.

Still referring to **FIGS. 8** and **9**, a pair of electrical wires **240, 242** passes under the second surface **218** of the base **212** and enters the cavity **236** of the support sleeve **230**. The wires **240, 242** supply low voltage current to the light assembly **214**. A socket **244** having a pair of receptacles **246, 248** is connected at one end **250** of the wire **240** and at one end **252** of the wire **242**. Preferably, dielectric grease (not shown in **FIGS. 8** and **9**) is disposed on and around the receptacles **246, 248** to prevent corrosion of the socket member **244**. The connectors **226, 228** of the light assembly **214** mate respectively with the receptacles **238, 240** of the socket **244**. The wires **240, 242** are preferably coiled inside the cavity **236** of the support sleeve **230** in order to facilitate the removal of the light assembly **214** and the socket **244** from the support sleeve **230** for the purposes of repair or replacement of the light assembly **214** externally of the base **212**.

Still referring to **FIGS. 8** and **9**, the paver **210** includes a square-shaped support plate **254** having a first surface **256** and a second surface **258** opposite thereof. A circular-shaped aperture **239** and a pair of circular-shaped holes **241, 243** each extend longitudinally from the first surface **256** to the second surface **258** of the plate **254**. The first surface **256** of the plate **254** is juxtaposed with the

second surface **218** of the base **212** and positioned proximate to the aperture **220** of the base **212.**

In assembling the paver **210**, a screw **245** is inserted into the hole **235** of the bracket **225**, while a screw **247** is inserted into the hole **237** of the bracket **225**. The bracket **225** is positioned on the first end **232** of the support sleeve **230**, with the screws **245, 247** are positioned within the cavity **236** of the support sleeve **230**. The support sleeve **230** and bracket **225** (as assembled in the foregoing manner) are fitted within the aperture **220** of the base **212**, whereby the bracket **225** is positioned proximate to the exterior surface **216** of the base **212**. An o-ring may be fitted around the exterior surface of the support sleeve **230** so as to promote centering of the support sleeve **230** within the aperture **220** of the base **212** (not shown in **FIGS. 8** and **9**). Alternatively, the o-ring need not be included.

Next, the plate **254** is positioned against the interior surface **218** of the base **212**. The screw **245** is inserted in the hole **241** of the plate **254**, while the screw **247** is inserted within the hole **243** of the plate. A threaded locknut **249** is fastened to the screw **245**, while a threaded locknut **251** is fastened to the screw **247**. The locknuts **249, 251** are tightened against the second surface **258** of the plate **254**, thereby securing the bracket **225** to the first end **232** of the support sleeve **230,** as well as securing the support sleeve **230** within the aperture **220** of the base **212**.

It is noted that the bracket **225** and the support sleeve **230** are preferably two separate elements. Alternatively, the bracket **225** and the support sleeve

230 can be formed as a monolithic element, such that the first end **232** of the support sleeve **230** includes the features of the bracket **225**, such as the locking tabs **229, 231**.

It is further noted that the plate **256** acts as a stop to prevent the support sleeve **230** from being pressed into a bedding substrate (not shown in **FIGS. 8** and **9**) that the paver **210** is laid on, in the event that a force is applied directly on top of the light assembly **214**. In turn, the light assembly **214** is prevented from traveling too far below the exterior surface **218** of the base **212**; and, therefore, allows the light assembly **214** to support vertical loading.

Next, the connector **226** is connected to the receptacle **246** of the socket **244**, while the connector **228** is connected to the receptacle **248** of the socket **244**. The ends **250, 252** of the wires **240, 242** are fed through the aperture **239** of the support plate **254**. An end **253** of the wire **240** opposite the end **250** thereof and an end of the wire **255** opposite the end **252** thereof are each connected to an insulation piercing connector **257** (not shown in **FIG. 9**, but see **FIG. 8**). In turn, the insulation piercing connector **257** is connected to a power cable **259** which is connected to a power source (not shown in the Figures). The connector **257** prevents moisture or oxidation from entering into the contact area of the power cable **259**. In addition, the insulation piercing connector **257** allows a user to remove the paver **210** from one location to another location along the power cable **259**. Preferably, the insulation piercing connector **257** is positioned underneath a paver block that is adjacent to the paver **210** (not shown in the Figures) so as not to interfere with the other components of the paver **210**. It is

also noted that the power source has a preferable voltage of 12 volts, but it may have another voltage.

Next, the light assembly **214** is mounted to the bracket **225**. More particularly, the tabs **221, 223** of the cam lock **217** are aligned between the locking tabs **229, 231** of the bracket **225** and the light assembly **214** is then twisted a one-quarter turn (i.e., 90 degrees) clockwise. As a result, the tabs **221, 223** of the cam lock of the light assembly **214** engage the locking tabs **229, 231** of the bracket **225,** thereby securing the light assembly **214** to the bracket **225** and, in turn, to the support sleeve **230**. The light assembly **214** can be easily and quickly removed for repair or replacement by twisting it one-quarter turn (i.e., 90 degrees) counter-clockwise. As a result, the tabs **221, 223** of the cam lock of the light assembly **214** disengage the locking tabs **229, 231** of the bracket **225,** thereby facilitating the removal of the light assembly **214** from the bracket **225** and, in turn, from the support sleeve **230**. The tabs **211, 213** of the lens cap **224** function as leverage points to facilitate the installation and removal of the light assembly **214** from the bracket **225** by a user with a special shaped key or another tool, such as a screwdriver. Although it is preferable that the lens cap **224** of the light assembly **214** includes the tabs **211, 213**, they need not be included. Alternatively, the lens cap **224** may include other means for leverage to facilitate the removal of the light assembly **214** from the bracket **225**, such as, for instance, recesses formed therein (not shown in the Figures).

It is noted that the base **212** preferably has a rectangular-brick shape, but it can consist of other shapes and sizes. The plate **254** is preferably square in

shape, but each can consist of other shapes and sizes. While the aperture **220** of the base **212**, the cavity **236** of the support sleeve **230**, and the aperture **235** and the holes **237, 239** of the plate **254** are each preferably circular in shape, it should be noted that each can consist of other shapes and sizes. In addition, the lens cap **224** of the light assembly **214** and the bracket **225** are each preferably disc-shaped, but each can consist of other shapes and sizes. Finally, the support sleeve **230** is preferably tubular in shape, but it can consist of other shapes and sizes.

It is also noted that the base **212** is preferably manufactured from a masonry material, such as poured concrete or fired clay type building brick. Alternatively, the base **212** can be manufactured from other materials. In addition, the lens cap **224** of the light assembly **214** is preferably made from high impact polycarbonate, such as, for instance, from LEXAN® brand of polycarbonate. Alternatively, the lens cap **224** can be made from other materials. The mounting bracket **225,** the screws **245, 247** and the locknuts **249, 251** are each preferably made from stainless steel, but each can be made from other materials. The support plate **254** is preferably manufactured from a thin flexible corrosion resistant material, such as galvanized steel, or from aluminum. Alternatively, the support plate **254** can be manufactured from other materials. Finally, the support sleeve **230** is preferably manufactured from PVC pipe, but it can be manufactured from other materials.

Moreover, a kit including the modular light assembly **214,** the socket **244** and the bracket **225** may be obtained commercially from Truck-Lite Inc., of

Falconer, New York, model number 10400. Alternatively, the light assembly **114**, the socket **244** and the bracket **225** can be supplied by other manufacturers and/or be characterized by other model and part numbers. In addition, the insulation piercing connector **257** may be obtained commercially from Hadco, Inc. of Littlestown, Pennsylvania, part number LVC3. Alternatively, the connector **257** can be supplied by other manufacturers and/or be characterized by other model and part numbers. Also, the wires **240, 242** can be SPT-1W wire, but they can consist of other types of wire.

It will be understood that the embodiments described herein are merely exemplary and that a person skilled in the art may make many variations and modifications without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. All such variations and modifications are intended to be included within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.